

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Amended) The mower head of claim 66 wherein said actuating member comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston, said cylinder including a chamber surrounding said piston.

11. (Previously Amended) The mower head of claim 65 wherein one of said at least three sides comprises a plurality of angled sections.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Amended) The mower head of claim 65 wherein said deck further comprises a fourth side and at least three side walls, one depending from at least three of said four sides, wherein two of said at least three side walls are  
5 rigid.

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Amended) The mower head of claim 65 wherein one of said at least three sides further comprises an extension which protrudes under said guard.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Amended) The mower head of claim 69 wherein said actuating member comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston assembly.

20-38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Amended) The mower head of claim 67, wherein said flap is a resilient, one-piece flap.

40. (Previously Amended) The mower head of claim 70, wherein said flap is a resilient, one-piece flap.

41-64. (Canceled)

65. (Previously Presented) A mower head comprising:  
a deck having at least three sides;  
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being  
5 disposed above and generally parallel to said blade; and  
a guard assembly comprising:  
a hinge extending between and mounted to two of said at least three sides of said deck at an angle with respect to said two of said at least three sides, and

10           a guard pivotally attached to said deck via said  
hinge, wherein a horizontal plane of said guard is parallel  
to, and spaced from, a horizontal plane of said deck in one  
orientation of said guard.

66. (Previously Presented) The mower head of claim 65,  
further comprising an actuating member mounted on said deck.

67. (Previously Presented) The mower head of claim 66,  
further comprising a flap which depends from said guard.

68. (Currently Amended) A mower head comprising:

a deck comprising:

at least four sides and four corners, and  
three side walls, one depending from each of  
5 three of said at least four sides, wherein two of said three  
side walls are rigid;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said  
deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being  
disposed above and generally parallel to said blade; and

10           a guard assembly comprising:

a hinge mounted to and extending at an angle in  
relation to two adjacent ones of said at least four sides of  
said deck,

15           a guard pivotally attached to said deck via  
said hinge, and

said guard including a plurality of discretely  
angled sections which angled sections together form a single  
corner of said deck.

69. (Previously Presented) The mower head of claim 68, further comprising an actuating member mounted on said deck.

70. (Previously Presented) The mower head of claim 68, further comprising a flap which depends from said guard and is movable in relation to said guard

71. (Previously Presented) The mower head of claim 70, wherein said flap is oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said guard.

72. (Previously Presented) A mower head comprising:  
a deck having at least four sides including a front side;  
a boom arm to which said deck is mounted, said boom arm being positioned adjacent a first side edge of said mower  
5 head;

a guard assembly comprising:

a hinge extending at an angle between said front side and an adjacent one of said sides of said deck; and

10 a guard pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, said guard being positioned adjacent a second side edge of said mower head, said second side edge being located opposite said first side edge.

73. (Previously Presented) A mower head comprising:

a deck having four sides;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being  
5 disposed above and generally parallel to said blade;

a guard assembly comprising a guard pivotally attached to said deck via a hinge which extends between two adjacent ones of said four sides of said deck such that said guard is positioned in a first corner of said deck; and said guard  
10 being selectively pivotable to a position above a plane of said deck; and

wherein said deck comprises a second corner, located adjacent said guard assembly, said second corner comprising two side walls which are rigid and non-moving, wherein a first  
15 side of said deck includes both said first corner and said second corner.